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# THE BULLETIN OF ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

21 APR 1951

The Official Organ of  
**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON  
ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE**

Edited by

**FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.**

*Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*

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# BULLETIN OF ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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## NOTICES PRESCRIBED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ZOOLOGY

The following notices are given in pursuance of decisions taken, on the recommendation of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (see 1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 51-56, 57-59), by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, July 1948 (see 1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **5** : 5-13, 131).

### **(a) Date of commencement by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of voting on applications published in the "Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature"**

NOTICE is hereby given that normally the International Commission will start to vote upon applications published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* on the expiry of a period of six calendar months from the date of publication in the *Bulletin* of the applications in question. Any specialist who may desire to comment upon any of the applications published in the present Part (vol. 2, Part 3) of the *Bulletin* is accordingly invited to do so, in writing, to the Secretary to the Commission as quickly as possible and in any case in sufficient time to enable the communication in question to reach the Secretariat of the Commission before the expiry of the six-month period referred to above.

# Notices prescribed by the International Congress of Zoology (*continued*)

## (b) Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its plenary powers in certain cases

NOTICE is hereby given that the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its plenary powers is involved in applications published in the present Part of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Volume 2, Part 3) in relation to the following names:—

- (1) the trivial name *sirtalis* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Coleuber sirtalis*) (Class Reptilia, Order Ophidia) (Z.N.(S.) 433);
- (2) *Crangon* Weber, 1795, *Crangon* Fabricius, 1798, *Alpheus* Weber, 1795, and *Alpheus* Fabricius, 1798 (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda) (Z.N.(S.)231);
- (3) *Scyllarides* Gill, 1898 (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda) (Z.N.(S.)473);
- (4) *Lysiosquilla* Dana, 1852 (Class Crustacea, Order Stomatopoda) (Z.N.(S.)474);
- (5) *Odontodactylus* Bigelow, 1893 (Class Crustacea, Order Stomatopoda) (Z.N.(S.)475);
- (6) all names for "Petrificata" in Volume 3 of Linnaeus, 1768, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 12) and in corresponding portions of the following later editions of the above work:—
  - (a) Gmelin (J. F.), 1793, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 13), vol. 3;
  - (b) Houttuyn (M.), 1785, *Natuurlyke Historie*, vol. 3;
  - (c) Turton (W.), 1806, *Gen. Syst. Nature*, vol. 7 (Z.N.(S.)418);
- (7) *Conchidium* Oehlert, 1887, and *Pentamerus* Sowerby (J.), 1813 (Class Brachiopoda) (Z.N.(S.)286).

2. In accordance with the procedure agreed upon at the Session held by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in Paris in 1948 (see 1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4: 56), corresponding Notices have been sent to the journals "Nature" and "Science."

FRANCIS HEMMING

*Secretary to the International Commission on  
Zoological Nomenclature*

Secretariat of the  
International Commission on  
Zoological Nomenclature,  
28, Park Village East, Regent's Park,  
LONDON, N.W.1, England.  
10th April, 1951.



**PROPOSED DETERMINATION UNDER THE PLENARY  
POWERS OF THE SPECIES TO WHICH THE TRIVIAL  
NAME "SIRTALIS" LINNAEUS, 1758 (AS PUBLISHED  
IN THE BINOMINAL COMBINATION "COLUBER  
SIRTALIS") (CLASS REPTILIA) IS TO BE APPLIED**

By KARL P. SCHMIDT

(Chief Curator of Zoology, Chicago Natural History Museum, Chicago, Illinois,  
U.S.A.)

and

ROGER CONANT

(Curator, Philadelphia Zoological Garden, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.)

**(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)433)**

Changes of currently used trivial names of North American snakes are proposed by L. M. Klauber, 1948 (*Copeia* **1948** (No. 1): 1-14). The changes in question are all valid under the International Rules, and the changes are based on an exhaustive examination of both the nomenclatorial and zoological questions at issue.

One of the names in question involves two of the most abundant snakes in the North American fauna, which have appeared under their current check-list names (e.g., Stejneger, L., and Thomas Barbour, *A check-list of North American Amphibians and Reptiles*: 171-172) for more than 100 years and have accumulated very large numbers of references. The double transfer of the great list of references would work an especial hardship on the non-taxonomic zoologist, and would require an explanatory phrase accompanying use of the names in the sense proposed by Klauber.

We accordingly ask the Commission to use their plenary powers to direct that the trivial name *sirtalis* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Coluber sirtalis*) shall apply to the species described and figured as *Tropidonotus sirtalis* by J. E. Holbrook in 1842 in *North American Herpetology; or, a description of the reptiles inhabiting the United States*. Philadelphia, Dobson: 5 vols., illus. (Vol. 4: 41, pl. 11), and that "Canada" (restricted to the vicinity of Quebec, see Robert F. Inger, 1946, *Copeia*, **1946**: 254) is to be treated as the type locality of the species, the nomenclature of which is so stabilised.

We further request that the above name, so stabilised, be added to the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, together with the trivial name *saurita* Linnaeus, 1766 (as published in the binominal combination *Coluber saurita*), the names of these two species being thus placed beyond the range of further dispute. It is to be noted that the currently recognised generic combinations *Thamnophis sirtalis* and *Thamnophis sauritus* have been in use since 1892 and 1893 respectively (cf. Stejneger (L.) and Barbour (T.), 1917. *A check-list of North American Amphibians and Reptiles* (1st ed.): 103).

The use of the trivial name *sirtalis* Linnaeus for the common garter snake has been unquestioned for more than 100 years. Of the American herpetologists canvassed on the subject of the present application, the majority give it their support. The specialists in favor of the above request are :—

- S. C. Bishop, University of Rochester.
- C. M. Bogert, The American Museum of Natural History.
- Fred R. Cagle, Tulane University.
- A. F. Carr, University of Florida.
- Doris M. Cochran, United States National Museum.
- D. Dwight Davis, Chicago Natural History Museum.
- E. R. Dunn, Haverford College.
- J. A. Fowler, George Washington University.
- Helen T. Gaige, 1211, Ferdon Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- Howard K. Gloyd, Chicago Academy of Sciences.
- Coleman J. Goin, University of Florida.
- Chapman Grant, 2970, 6th Avenue, San Diego, California.
- A. B. Grobman, University of Florida.
- Norman Hartweg, Museum of Zoology of Michigan University.
- R. F. Inger, Chicago Natural History Museum.
- Murray L. Johnson, 1207, Medical Arts Building, Tacoma 2, Washington.
- Arthur Loveridge, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard.
- M. Graham Netting, Carnegie Museum.
- J. A. Oliver, University of Florida.
- Grace Orton, Carnegie Museum.
- C. H. Pope, Chicago Natural History Museum.
- Benjamin Shreve, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard.
- J. R. Slater, College of Puget Sound.
- W. H. Stickel, Fish and Wildlife Service.
- R. C. Stebbins, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California.

These in favor of the change *sensu* Klauber :—

- L. M. Klauber, 233, West Juniper Street, San Diego, California.
- C. D. Perkins, Zoological Society of San Diego.
- H. M. Smith, University of Illinois.

Not voting :—

- G. S. Myers, Stanford University.
- E. H. Taylor, University of Kansas.



**PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO VALIDATE THE GENERIC NAME "CRANGON" FABRICIUS, 1798, FOR THE COMMON SHRIMP AND THE GENERIC NAME "ALPHEUS" FABRICIUS, 1798, FOR THE SNAPPING SHRIMPS (CLASS CRUSTACEA, ORDER DECAPODA)**

By L. B. HOLTHUIS

(*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*)

**(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)231)**

The present application relates to two generic names in the Crustacea Decapoda, each of which is commonly used by the majority of carcinologists, but each of which, under a strict application of the *Règles*, is inapplicable in the sense in which it is employed. For each of these names (*Alpheus* Fabricius, 1798, and *Crangon* Fabricius, 1798) is an invalid junior homonym of an identical generic name published in a different sense by Weber in 1795. The strict application of the *Règles* to these names would involve the transfer of the generic name *Crangon* (as from Weber, 1795) from the Common Shrimp to a genus of Snapping Shrimps. The ruthless application of the *Règles* in this way would lead to enormous confusion, not only in systematic literature but also in economic fisheries literature. It would also cause the most serious confusion in the teaching of zoology.

The following are the original references to the generic names dealt with in the present application:—

*Alpheus* Weber, 1795, *Nomencl. ent.* : 91.

*Alpheus* Fabricius, 1798, *Suppl. Ent. syst.* : 380, 404 (type species, by subsequent selection by Latreille, 1810 (*Consid. gén. Crust. Arach. Ins.* : 422) : *Alpheus avarus* Fabricius, 1798, *Suppl. Ent. syst.* : 404).

*Crangon* Weber, 1795, *Nomencl. ent.* : 94 (type species, by monotypy : *Astacus malabaricus* Fabricius, 1775, *Syst. Ent.* : 415).

*Crangon* Fabricius, 1798, *Suppl. Ent. syst.* : 387, 409 (type species, by absolute tautonymy : *Cancer crangon* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 632).

*Crago* Lamarck, 1801, *Syst. Anim. sans Vertèbr.* : 159 (type species, by monotypy : *Cancer crangon*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 632).

Prior to the year 1904, Weber's generic names had been ignored and the Common Shrimp had been placed in the genus *Crangon* Fabricius, 1798, while the generic name *Alpheus* Fabricius, 1798, had been used for Snapping Shrimps. In the year 1904, however, Rathbun revived the names in Weber's *Nomenclator entomologicus* of 1795 and accordingly pointed out (*Proc. biol. Soc. Wash.* **17** : 170) that under the Law of Priority the name *Alpheus* was not available for the Snapping Shrimps, the name *Alpheus* Fabricius, 1798, having, as its

type species, a species (*Alpheus avarus* Fabricius, 1798) that was congeneric with the species (*Astacus malabaricus* Fabricius, 1775) which was the type species of the earlier generic name *Crangon* Weber, 1795. Under the *Règles*, Rathbun was entirely correct in the contention which she so advanced. The generic name *Crangon* Weber, 1795, though published without any description, contained four nominal species of which one (*Astacus malabaricus* Fabricius) was the name of a previously published nominal species; the generic name *Crangon* Weber, 1795, thus satisfies the requirements of Proviso (a) to Article 25, even under the narrow definition laid down in the Commission's *Opinion* 1, for, being a monotypical genus, it had an indicated type species. Rathbun further argued that the name *Alpheus* Fabricius, 1798, was invalid as a junior homonym of the generic name *Alpheus* Weber, 1795, a genus established without a description or definition, with no designated or indicated type species and with more than one previously published nominal species referred to it. At that time generic names published in this manner were commonly treated as satisfying the requirements of Proviso (a) to Article 25 (notwithstanding the explicit provisions in *Opinion* 1). It was not until 1948 that all doubt on this subject was removed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, when it inserted words in the *Règles* to secure "that a generic or subgeneric name published before 1st January, 1931, shall be available under Article 25 as from the date of its original publication not only when (as at present) it was then accompanied by a definition or description or when the genus was monotypical or when a type species was designated or indicated by the original author when publishing the name but also when the name, on being first published, was accompanied by no verbal definition or description, the only indication given being that provided by the citation under the generic or subgeneric name concerned of the names of one or more previously published nominal species ("Official Record of Proceedings of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at its Session held in Paris in July, 1948", in 1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4: 78-80). Thus, under the Paris amendment of Article 25 Rathbun's rejection of the name *Alpheus* Fabricius, 1798, as a junior homonym of the name *Alpheus* Weber, 1795, is retrospectively rendered quite correct.

Rathbun pointed out also that the name *Crangon* Fabricius, 1798, was a junior homonym of the name *Crangon* Weber, 1795 (which, as explained above, she applied to the Snapping Shrimps) and therefore that for this reason also the Common Shrimp could no longer be known by the name *Crangon*. She accordingly adopted for the Common Shrimp the name *Crago* Lamarck, 1801, the next oldest published generic name for that species.

Rathbun thus used the generic name *Crangon* Weber, 1795, for the genus of Snapping Shrimps hitherto called by the name *Alpheus* Fabricius, 1798, and the name *Crago* Lamarck, 1801, for the Common Shrimp hitherto called by the name *Crangon* Fabricius, 1798. Prior to the publication of her paper, all authors used the name *Crangon* Fabricius, 1798, for the Common Shrimp and the name *Alpheus* Fabricius, 1798, for the genus of Snapping Shrimps; since the publication of her paper, the majority of workers have continued to use these names in this way, Rathbun being followed almost exclusively by American authors only. Thus, in the literature which I have myself



examined, more than 340 authors (of whom 170 published their papers after 1904) have used the name *Crangon* Fabricius, 1798, for the Common Shrimp, while only about 40 have used the name *Crango* Lamarck, 1801, for that species. The name *Alpheus* Fabricius, 1798, has, to my knowledge, been used for the Snapping Shrimp by more than 220 authors (of whom 110 published their papers after 1904), while only about 50 authors have used the name *Crangon* Weber, 1795, in this sense.

The genus *Crangon* Fabricius (= *Crango* Lamarck) is the commonest genus of shrimps on the coasts of the northern parts of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and is of great economic importance; the genus *Alpheus* Fabricius (= *Crangon* Weber) is the largest genus of Snapping Shrimps, containing over 180 species, and is widely distributed throughout the tropical and sub-tropical regions of the globe. It is therefore of the highest importance to put an end to the present state of confusion and to secure that for the future there shall be uniformity in the names applied to these genera. Further, both *Crangon* Fabricius and *Alpheus* Fabricius are the type genera of families; these families are known by European workers as CRANGONIDAE and ALPHEIDAE respectively, but by American authors as CRAGONIDAE and CRANGONIDAE; this difference in the names used for these well-known families is extremely confusing, more especially as it involves the transfer of the name CRANGONIDAE from one family to another and the use for the two families of names CRANGONIDAE and CRAGONIDAE which, being derived from the same word, are undesirably similar to one another. The transfer, as between these two families, of the name CRANGONIDAE would give rise to a further confusion through the fact that the family known by this name by European workers contains a number of genera, the names of which are based upon the word *Crangon*, e.g., *Notocrangon* Coutière, 1900; *Sclerocrangon* Sars, 1882; *Prionocrangon* Wood-Mason, 1891; *Paracrangon* Dana, 1852. The existence of these names would be extremely anomalous if the generic name *Crangon* were to be removed to a different family and would be a permanent cause of confusion and misunderstanding. Similarly, the family known as ALPHEIDAE by European workers contains genera, the names of which are based on the word *Alpheus*, e.g., *Synalpheus* Bate, 1888; *Alpheopsis* Coutière, 1897; *Alpheinus* Borradaile, 1899. The existence of genera with such names in a family called CRANGONIDAE would be further source of confusion.

Accordingly, I ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use their plenary powers to prevent the permanent confusion that is otherwise unavoidable. The concrete proposals which I therefore submit for consideration are that the Commission should:—

(1) use their plenary powers:—

(a) to suppress the under-mentioned generic names:—

(i) *Alpheus* Weber, 1795;

(ii) *Crangon* Weber, 1795;

(b) to validate the under-mentioned generic names:—

(i) *Alpheus* Fabricius, 1798;

(ii) *Crangon* Fabricius, 1798;

- (2) place the under-mentioned generic names on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*, with the type species severally specified below :—
  - (a) *Alpheus* Fabricius, 1798 (type species, by subsequent selection by Latreille (1810) : *Alpheus avarus* Fabricius, 1798) ;
  - (b) *Crangon* Fabricius, 1798 (type species, by absolute tautonymy : *Cancer crangon* Linnaeus, 1758) ;
- (3) place the under-mentioned generic names on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* :—
  - (a) *Alpheus* Weber, 1795, as suppressed under (1) (a) (i) above ;
  - (b) *Crangon* Weber, 1795, as suppressed under (1) (a) (ii) above ;
  - (c) *Crago* Lamarck, 1801 (an objective synonym of *Crangon* Fabricius, 1798, as validated under (1) (b) (ii) above ;
- (4) place the under-mentioned trivial names on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* :—
  - (a) *avarus* Fabricius, 1798 (as published in the binominal combination *Alpheus avarus*) ;
  - (b) *crangon* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Cancer crangon*).

I should add, with reference to the decision by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, that in future the gender of every generic name added to the *Official List* is to be specified therein (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 341), that the gender of the generic name *Alpheus* is masculine and that of the generic name *Crangon* is feminine.



**ON THE CONFUSION WHICH WOULD ARISE FROM THE  
ACCEPTANCE OF THE GENERIC NAMES "CRANGON"  
WEBER, 1795, AND "ALPHEUS" WEBER, 1795 (CLASS  
CRUSTACEA, ORDER DECAPODA)**

By POUL HEEGAARD  
(*University of Copenhagen, Denmark*)

**(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)231)**

The urgent need for securing a definite ruling on the manner in which the generic names *Crangon* and *Alpheus* should be used and thus putting an end to the confusion which has arisen through the use by some authors of these names in the manner adopted by Weber in 1795 instead of in the manner adopted by Fabricius in 1798, which had hitherto been accepted by all authors, led me in March, 1949, to submit an application to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature asking (1) that the plenary powers should be used to suppress the above names as published by Weber, and (2) to validate the use of those names in the accustomed Fabrician sense. I am informed, however, by the Secretary to the Commission that an application in a similar sense was submitted to the Commission by Dr. L. B. Holthuis of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leyden, in November, 1946. The Secretary to the Commission has communicated to me the text of Dr. Holthuis' application, with which I find myself in complete agreement. In these circumstances I do not think it necessary to proceed with my application. It will be sufficient if I express my strong hope that the Commission will, as proposed, solve this problem by validating the names *Crangon* Fabricius and *Alpheus* Fabricius with the type species severally specified in Dr. Holthuis' application.

**ON DR. POUL HEEGAARD'S PROPOSAL THAT THE  
NAMES "CRANGON" FABRICIUS, 1798, AND "ALPHEUS"  
FABRICIUS, 1798 (CLASS CRUSTACEA, ORDER DECA-  
PODA) SHOULD BE VALIDATED UNDER THE PLENARY  
POWERS**

By the late ROBERT GURNEY  
(*Oxford*)

**(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)231)**

I understand that Dr. P. Heegaard has made application to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to restore the names *Crangon* Fabricius, 1798, and *Alpheus* Fabricius, 1798, to their original meaning by overriding the earlier use of the first of these names by Weber in 1795 which were declared to be available under the Commission's *Opinion* 17. I should like to support Dr. Heegaard's application.

Weber's *Nomenclator entomologicus* is a compilation of *nomina nuda* which has not, and presumably never had, any scientific value. So far as the Crustacea are concerned, the only claim to validity that any of the specific names have is derived from their reference to Fabricius' *Entomologia systematica*. The generic names, on the other hand, are borrowed from Fabricius' *Supplementum*, which was not published until 1798, but these names are applied by Weber in a sense entirely different from Fabricius' intention. *Opinion* 17 places us in the ridiculous position of accepting specific names when they refer to the *Entomologia systematica*, but rejecting those taken from the *Supplementum* because this had not then been published; while generic names taken from the *Supplementum*, and misplaced, are accepted as available because they were published before it! The minority view expressed by Hoyle at the time when *Opinion* 17 was rendered gives the commonsense view.

The consequences of *Opinion* 17 have been disastrous. The name *Crangon*, unless accompanied by some explanation, has ceased to be intelligible to anyone not a specialist in Crustacean systematics. Any student of geographical distribution, for instance, might be seriously misled by species of *Crangon* appearing in faunistic lists.

**ON DR. L. B. HOLTHUIS' PROPOSALS RELATING TO  
THE GENERIC NAMES "CRANGON" WEBER, 1795, AND  
"CRANGON" FABRICIUS, 1798**

By ALBERT H. BANNER  
(*University of Hawaii, Honolulu 14, Territory of Hawaii*)

**(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)231)**

(Extract from a letter dated 24th October, 1950)

I have been apprised by Dr. Fenner A. Chace, of the U.S. National Museum,



of the proposal of Dr. L. B. Holthuis that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature use its plenary powers to suppress the names *Crangon* Weber and *Crago* Lamarck for *Alpheus* and *Crangon* of Fabricius. As I have devoted some time to the taxonomy of the Hawaiian members of the CRANGONIDAE (or ALPHEIDAE) and as I have reviewed the literature on this change in names, I should like to submit my views.

I believe that it was most unfortunate that this most confusing change in names was made. However, on the basis of *Opinion* 17 of the Commission, any carcinologist abiding by the rules of nomenclature had two alternatives: to accept the ruling or to appeal for a suspension of the rules. In the forty years since the decision there has been no official appeal in proper form until now, and many later taxonomists have used the names of Weber in good faith, abiding by the rules of nomenclature and the rulings of the Commission.

I believe that a suspension of the rules at this late date would not only confuse the literature further, but would also in effect penalise those who followed the rulings of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. I suggest, therefore, that the proposal of Dr. Holthuis be rejected.

**ON DR. L. B. HOLTHUIS' PROPOSALS RELATING TO  
THE GENERIC NAMES "CRANGON" WEBER, 1795, AND  
"CRANGON" FABRICIUS, 1798**

By FENNER A. CHACE, Jr.

(Smithsonian Institution, U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.)

**(Commission's references Z.N.(S.)231)**

(Extracts from letters dated 15th September and 20th October, 1950)

A. *Extract from a letter dated 15th September, 1950.*

Thank you very much for your letter of 29th August, 1950, and the enclosed copy of your letter to Dr. Holthuis regarding the *Crangon-Alpheus-Crago* matter. It is good to know that some action can be expected on this question before long.

I do not have time just now to review the literature as carefully as I would like to do before submitting a comprehensive statement of my views. I assume that such a statement is not needed or even wanted until after the publication of Dr. Holthuis's application. As I have written Dr. Holthuis, however, it is my feeling that suspension of the rules regarding this question at this late date will not entirely clarify the situation. All of the American carcinologists have, to my knowledge, accepted *Crangon* for *Alpheus* and *Crago* for *Crangon* and this change has become firmly established in the American literature. I also know of one European—and there may be others—who has also made this change. Had the application been made when Miss Rathbun proposed

the adoption of Weber's name, I would have been inclined to uphold it, inasmuch as the names of two very large genera were involved. I have also written Dr. Holthuis that I personally will be willing to accept any measures recommended by the Commission and I feel fairly certain that most American authors would eventually follow suit. However, this would not remove the confusion from synonymies any more than would the eventual adoption of Miss Rathbun's changes by workers in other parts of the world.

I will try to submit a more detailed analysis at a later date.

B. *Extract from a letter dated 20th October, 1950.*

Please excuse the delay in replying to your letter Z.N.(S.)231 of 30th September, 1950, regarding the application of Dr. L. B. Holthuis, of the Rijksmuseum at Leiden, for a decision by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature covering *Crangon* versus *Alpheus* and *Crago* versus *Crangon*. It has taken some time to compile and analyse a bibliography for these genera for the past 45 years, and there is always too little time to devote to such research. I must confess that I owe a very real debt of gratitude to Dr. Holthuis in this connection; without a copy of an unpublished synonymy and bibliography of the caridean decapod crustaceans which he prepared a few years ago, this survey would have required a great deal more time and would have been much less complete.

As mentioned in my letter of 15th September, 1950, the change from *Alpheus* Fabricius, 1798, to *Crangon* Weber, 1795, and from *Crangon* Fabricius, 1798, to *Crago* Lamarck, 1801, is now recognised by practically all of the active specialists on decapod Crustacea in this country. It has been accepted by J. C. Armstrong, E. P. Creaser, M. W. Johnson, W. L. Schmitt and myself, and rejected only by L. Boone. The use of *Crangon* of Weber and *Crago* of Lamarck by most of the specialists has led to the complete acceptance of the names in all of the ecological and other publications in this country that I have been able to find. Recent biologists, other than taxonomists, who have used the names in this sense include: B. R. Coonfield, H. H. Darby, W. M. Hess, W. G. Hewatt, Johnson and Snoek, G. E. MacGinitie, and A. S. Pearse.

In South America, these generic names apparently have not been used in either sense by any decapod specialists who are still active, but *Alpheus* has been employed by two Brazilian ecologists, L. H. Matthews and L. P. H. de Oliveira.

The only active carcinologist in the Hawaiian Islands who has published extensively on decapods, C. H. Edmondson, has used *Crangon* for the snapping shrimps since 1923. This name is also being accepted by A. H. Banner in a forthcoming report on the snapping shrimps of the eastern Pacific islands.

*Alpheus* has been retained by E. P. Estampador and H. A. Roxas of the Philippine Islands, but neither of these authors can be considered active crustacean taxonomists.



In Japan, D. Miyadi and Y. Yokoya have retained *Alpheus*, while Maki and Tsuchikya and T. Urita have accepted *Crangon* for the snapping shrimps. All of these may be considered professional carcinologists.

In Australia, both of the specialists on shrimps, H. M. Hale and F. A. McNeill, made the change to *Crangon* in 1926 and 1927, and two other authors who have published little taxonomically, B. H. Anderson and J. A. Tubb, have followed their example.

The only active Chinese worker to publish on the genera, S. C. Yu, accepted *Crangon* in 1935.

One Indo-Chinese student, R. Serene, has retained *Alpheus*, but there is no indication that he has published more than a preliminary faunal list.

A Siamese author, C. Suvatti, has employed *Crangon*, but he also is not a professional carcinologist.

In India, *Alpheus* has been used by Panikkar and Aiyar, but these authors are evidently not primarily taxonomists.

One Soviet publication, by Derjugin and Kobjakova, lists *Alpheus*, but there is no evidence that these workers are still active.

In South Africa, K. H. Barnard continues to accept *Alpheus* in his extensive monograph on the decapods of South Africa published this year.

Finally, in Europe, the change from *Alpheus* to *Crangon* has been accepted much more slowly than elsewhere. The active carcinologists who continue to employ *Alpheus* include : H. Blass, I. Gordon, L. B. Holthuis, M. V. Lebour, A. Nobre, O. Pesta, E. Sivertsen, and R. Zariquiey Alvarez. Two active European specialists, J. Hult and T. Monod, have accepted the change to *Crangon*. Of the European authors who are not primarily specialists in the field at the present time, W. Arndt, P. Audigé, M. Kollmann, T. P. Maccagno, L. Nouvel-Van Rysselberge, F. S. Russell, and P. Volz have used *Alpheus* and only one, T. A. Stephenson, has accepted *Crangon*.

This survey shows that of the 26 active carcinologists here recognised who have published on this genus of snapping shrimps, exactly half have accepted the change to *Crangon* and half have retained *Alpheus*. The shift to *Crangon* which became significant soon after 1920 and has steadily increased since then, has been retarded primarily by the European workers who have been reticent to change the name of the commercial shrimp of northern Europe from *Crangon* to *Crago* and who have also been averse on purely personal grounds from accepting any of Weber's generic names.

As I wrote in my earlier letter, had Dr. Holthuis's application been made 25 or 30 years ago when *Crangon* had not become firmly entrenched in much of the carcinological and ecological literature for the genus of snapping shrimps, I believe that I would have supported it because of its bearing on two of the largest families of caridean crustaceans. Now, however, I cannot see that anything is to be gained by exercise of the plenary powers of the Commission. If *Crangon* of Weber is placed on the "Official List," the European shrimps assigned to *Crangon* of Fabricius by most European workers will have to be shifted to *Crago* of Lamarck. This change is not as radical as it might be because of the fortunate similarity in names. On the other hand, if Weber's name is rejected, not only will the name of the commercial shrimps of the Pacific coast of North America have to be changed from *Crago* (which has become firmly established) back to *Crangon*, but the use of *Crangon* for the snapping shrimps, which has been invariably the case in the rather extensive American technological literature dealing with underwater sound and sonar devices during and since World War II, will have to be abandoned in favour of *Alpheus*. This latter is an important factor for consideration.

The contention might be made that a favourable action on Dr. Holthuis's application would be more generally accepted than an unfavourable one, because of the aversion of European workers to the adoption of Weber's names but I do not think that this factor is of great significance. I feel sure that Dr. Holthuis, like most of the carcinologists in other countries, will follow any recommendation made by the Commission in this case. There is little question that Dr. Holthuis is the foremost authority on the Caridea in the world today and, as such, his usage will almost surely be followed by nearly all of the other decapod specialists, especially those of his generation which will soon become the predominant group in Europe and elsewhere.



ON THE PROPOSED VALIDATION OF THE NAMES "CRANGON" AND "ALPHEUS" AS FROM FABRICIUS, 1798, BY THE SUPPRESSION OF THE NAMES "CRANGON" WEBER, 1795, AND "ALPHEUS" WEBER, 1795 (CLASS CRUSTACEA, ORDER DECAPODA) BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE: SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE

By L. B. HOLTHUIS

(*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*)

(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)231)

(Extract from a letter dated 14th December, 1950)

The enumeration of workers in carcinology compiled by Dr. Fenner A. Chace, Jr., gives a clear picture of the present situation. I should like to add only a few remarks, mainly concerning the European authors; these remarks, however, will not cause many changes to the picture as a whole.

*Europe.* I should like to omit from Dr. Chace's list the names of A. Nobre and W. Arndt, since both these authors died some time ago. The opinion of Nobre, who wrote a handbook on the Decapods of Portugal, will continue to exercise much influence, especially in his country. Furthermore, I should like to include among the active European decapod specialists A. Brian, A. Giordani Soika, H. Nouvel and E. Sollaud, all of whom use the names *Alpheus* Fabricius and *Crangon* Fabricius. It, of course, is possible to add a considerable number of names to the second group mentioned by Dr. Chace, namely that containing authors who are not primarily specialists in decapod taxonomy. However, it certainly has not been Dr. Chace's intention to make this list complete either for the American or the European authors. Furthermore here may be mentioned a group of authors, who are still living, but who have not been active in the field of Decapod Crustacea for a long time: W. T. Calman, one of the greatest authorities on Crustacea. H. Coutière, once the best specialist of the family ALPHEIDAE, A. Schellenberg, who wrote a monographic treatment of the German Decapods, and B. Parisi, while perhaps O. Pesta also is better placed here. All these authors too use the names *Alpheus* Fabricius and *Crangon* Fabricius. Summarising, we may state that when in America the names *Crago* Lamarck and *Crangon* Weber are accepted by practically all specialists and non-specialists, in Europe the names *Crangon* Fabricius and *Alpheus* Fabricius are equally unanimously accepted. (J. Hult used the name *Crangon* Weber, when dealing with material from the Galapagos Archipelago; Th. Monod did so with West African material, and J. A. Stephenson with material from the Great Barrier Reef of Australia.)

*Soviet Union.* J. A. Birstein, one of the foremost Russian authorities on Decapod Crustacea at present, uses the name *Crangon* Fabricius for the common shrimp.

*China.* S. C. Yu died some time ago. His work on Chinese Decapods, however, probably will exercise its influence in China for a long period to come, especially so since he gave a revision of the Chinese species of *Alpheus*, which genus was named *Crangon* Weber by him.

*Japan.* One of the foremost Japanese specialists of Decapoda Macrura of the present time, I. Kubo, uses the name ALPHEIDAE for the family of Snapping Shrimps.

Summarising, I get the following numbers of active Decapod specialists : those using the names *Crangon* Weber and *Crago* Lamarek number 13 (I include A. H. Banner, which Dr. Chace clearly did not), those employing the names *Crangon* Fabricius and *Alpheus* Fabricius number 15. These figures thus differ quite insignificantly from those given by Dr. Chace. Since it is very difficult to define an "active carcinologist," the numbers may be changed in either direction with reasonable arguments for so doing. It is next to impossible to give, for active non-specialists working with the two genera in question, figures similar to those given above for active decapod specialists; for here it is in most cases hardly possible to determine whether a worker is active or not. Still, the opinion of these non-specialists is perhaps more important than that of the specialists, since the former are more numerous and are more in need of a stabilised name than the latter.



**PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO RENDER  
THE GENERIC NAME "SCYLLARIDES" GILL, 1898 (CLASS  
CRUSTACEA, ORDER DECAPODA) THE OLDEST AVAIL-  
ABLE NAME FOR THE SPECIES CURRENTLY REFERRED  
THERETO**

By L. B. HOLTHUIS

(*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*)

**(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)473)**

The present application relates to a generic name, *Scyllarides* Gill, 1898 (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda), which is in general use, but which is not the oldest available name for the genus concerned. The ruthless application of the *Règles* in the present case would give rise to much quite unnecessary confusion, and I accordingly ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to prevent this confusion by using their plenary powers in such a way as to permit the continued use of the above generic name.

The following are the original references to the generic names dealt with in the present application:—

*Scyllarides* Gill, 1898, *Science* (n.s.) **7**: 98 (type species, by original designation: *Scyllarus aequinoctialis* Lund, 1793, *Skr. naturh. Selsk. Kbh.* (2) **2**: 21).

*Scyllaridia* Bell, 1857, *Monogr. foss. malacostr. Crust. Great Brit.* **1**: 35 (type species, by monotypy: *Scyllaridia koenigi* Bell, 1857, *Monogr. foss. malacostr. Crust. Great Brit.* **1**: 35).

*Pseudibacus* Guérin-Ménéville, 1855, *Rev. Mag. Zool.* (2) **7**: 137 (type species, by monotypy: *Pseudibacus veranyi* Guérin-Ménéville, 1855, *Rev. Mag. Zool.* (2) **7**: 137).

The name *Scyllarides* Gill, 1898, is the generally accepted name for a well-known genus of large Decapoda Macrura Reptantia. Strictly, however, this name, though available nomenclatorially, is not, under current taxonomic ideas, available for the genus to which it is at present applied, for twice before the publication of Gill's paper, other authors published different names for genera, having, as their respective type species, species now regarded as congeneric with *Scyllarus aequinoctialis* Lund, the type species of *Scyllarides* Gill, 1898.

First, Guérin-Ménéville in 1855 described a new Crustacean from the Mediterranean under the name *Pseudibacus varanyi*. Later, it was found that this Crustacean was the natant stage of the species at present best known as *Scyllarides latus* (Latreille, 1803) (= *Scyllurus latus* Latreille, 1803, *Hist. nat. Crust. Ins.* **6**: 182), a common inhabitant of the Mediterranean and West African coasts. The generic name *Pseudibacus* Guérin-Ménéville, 1855, is the oldest available generic name for any of the species at present recognised as belonging to the genus *Scyllarides* Gill, 1898, and accordingly the latter name should be replaced by the name *Pseudibacus* Guérin-Ménéville.

Second, Bell in 1857 described a new genus of fossil Crustacea, for which

he published the generic name *Scyllaridia*. The type species of this genus is *Scyllaridia koenigi* Bell, 1857. This species was considered by Woods (1925, *Mon. palaeontol. Soc. Lond.* **1922-1923** : 39) and by Glaessner (1929, in *Fossilium Catalogus* **9** (41) : 375) to be referable to the genus at present known by the name *Scyllarides* Gill, 1898.

Thus, on the basis of current taxonomic ideas, the generic name *Scyllarides* Gill, 1898, is twice over a subjective synonym of an older available generic name, first to *Pseudibacus* Guérin-Ménéville, 1855, second, to *Scyllaridia* Bell, 1857. Under the Law of Priority, the correct name for this genus is therefore *Pseudibacus* Guérin-Ménéville, 1855. But the name *Pseudibacus* is not at present used as a generic name at all, being employed only to denote an immature stage (the so-called *Pseudibacus* stage), while the name *Scyllaridia* has never been used for any but fossil species, while even for these it was dropped by Woods (1925) in favour of the well-known name *Scyllarides* Gill, 1898. As the name *Scyllarides* Gill is at present in general use, both for immature and adult forms of living species and also for fossil species, no useful purpose would be served—and, indeed, only unnecessary confusion caused—if the well-known name *Scyllarides* Gill, 1898, were to be replaced by either of the little-known names (*Pseudibacus* Guérin-Ménéville, 1855, and *Scyllaridia* Bell, 1857) referred to above. I accordingly ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to prevent confusion from arising in the nomenclature of this group, by using their plenary powers in such a way as to secure that the generic name *Scyllarides* Gill, 1898, is the oldest available generic name for the species at present referred to that genus. The concrete proposals which I therefore submit for consideration are that the Commission should :—

- (1) use their plenary powers to suppress the under-mentioned generic names for the purposes of the Law of Priority, but not for those of the Law of Homonymy :—
  - (a) *Pseudibacus* Guérin-Ménéville, 1855 ;
  - (b) *Scyllaridia* Bell, 1857 ;
- (2) place on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* the generic name : *Scyllarides* Gill, 1898 (type species, by original designation : *Scyllarus aequinoctialis* Lund, 1793) ;
- (3) place on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Names in Zoology* the generic names (a) *Pseudicacus* Guérin-Ménéville, 1855, and (b) *Scyllaridia* Bell, 1857, suppressed under (1) above ;
- (4) place on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* the trivial name *aequinoctialis* Lund, 1793 (as published in the binominal combination *Scyllarus aequinoctialis*).

I should add, with reference to the decision by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, that in future the gender of every generic name added to the *Official List* is to be specified therein (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 341), that the gender of the generic name *Scyllarides* is masculine,

**PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO RENDER  
THE GENERIC NAME "LYSIOSQUILLA" DANA, 1852  
(CLASS CRUSTACEA, ORDER STOMATOPODA) THE  
OLDEST AVAILABLE NAME FOR THE SPECIES  
CURRENTLY REFERRED THERETO**

By L. B. HOLTHUIS

(*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*)

**(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)474)**

The present application relates to a generic name, *Lysiosquilla* Dana, 1852 (Class Crustacea, Order Stomatopoda), which is in general use and is extremely well known, but which is not the oldest available generic name for the group of species concerned. The ruthless application of the *Règles* in the present case would give rise to enormous confusion, without serving any useful purpose whatever. I accordingly ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use their plenary powers in such a way as to permit the continued use of the above generic name.

The following are the original references to the generic names dealt with in the present application :—

*Lysiosquilla* Dana, 1852, *U.S. Explor. Exped.* **13** : 616 (type species, by selection by Fowler, 1912, *Ann. Rep. New Jersey State Mus.* **1911** : 539 : *Lysiosquilla inornata* Dana, 1852, *U.S. explor. Exped.* **13** : 616).

*Erichthus* Latreille, 1817, Cuvier's *Règn. anim.* (ed. 1) **3** : 43 (type species, by monotypy : *Astacus vitreus* Fabricius, 1775, *Syst. Ent.* : 417).

The name *Lysiosquilla* is in general use for a genus of Stomatopoda which inhabits the tropical and sub-tropical regions of the globe. Some of the species of this genus are very common, and the name occurs in many places in carcinological literature. In fact, every carcinologist who acknowledges the distinctness of this genus from the genus *Squilla* Fabricius, 1793 (*Ent. syst.* **2** : viii. 511) uses the name *Lysiosquilla* Dana for the adult forms of the species of this genus.

As far back, however, as the year 1817 larvae of species of this genus were placed by Latreille in a genus to which he gave the name *Erichthus*. As the name *Erichthus* Latreille, 1817, is much older than the name *Lysiosquilla* Dana, 1852, it should, under the Law of Priority, be used in place of that generic name by all who subjectively identify these genera with one another. The name *Erichthus* Latreille was often used by the older authors to denote larval forms, but is to-day used as a term to denote a certain group of larvae rather than as a generic name. This may be seen from the fact that at present the term *Lysierichthus* is used to denote the larvae of species of the genus



*Lysiosquilla* Dana (i.e., the true *Erichthus* of Latreille), the term *Pseuderichthus* to denote the larvae of the genus *Pseudosquilla* Dana, 1852, and the term *Gonerichthus* to denote the larvae of species of the genus *Gonodactylus* Berthold, 1827, while the original name *Erichthus* has fallen into disuse.

The substitution of the name *Erichthus* Latreille for the name *Lysiosquilla* Dana would cause such very great confusion that I ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to take the necessary preventive action under their plenary powers. The concrete proposals which I accordingly submit are that the Commission should :—

- (1) use their plenary powers to suppress for the purposes of the Law of Priority, but not for those of the Law of Homonymy, the generic name *Erichthus* Latreille, 1817 ;
- (2) place the generic name *Lysiosquilla* Dana, 1852 (type species, by selection by Fowler, 1912 : *Lysiosquilla inornata* Dana, 1852) on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* ;
- (3) place the generic name *Erichthus* Latreille, 1817, as suppressed under (1) above, on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* ;
- (4) place the trivial name *inornata* Dana, 1852 (as published in the binominal combination *Lysiosquilla inornata*) on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*.

The gender of the generic name *Lysiosquilla* is feminine.

ON DR. L. B. HOLTHUIS' PROPOSAL THAT THE PLENARY  
POWERS SHOULD BE USED TO PRESERVE THE USE OF  
THE GENERIC NAME "LYSIOSQUILLA" DANA, 1852  
(CLASS CRUSTACEA, ORDER STOMATOPODA) IN ITS  
ACCUSTOMED SENSE

By the late ROBERT GURNEY  
(Oxford)

(Extract from a letter dated 28th December 1946)

(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)474)

I am entirely in agreement with Dr. Holthuis' proposal in regard to the generic name *Lysiosquilla* Dana, 1852. I can hardly believe that any one would be so anti-social as to propose to use the name *Erichthus* in place of *Lysiosquilla* even if such action were justified under the Rules. But in any case such a proposal, if made at the present time, could not, I think, be successfully maintained, since there is as yet no positive proof that "*Erichthus*" is the larva of any species of the genus *Lysiosquilla*, still less that it is the larva of any particular species of that genus. There is no reasonable doubt about *Lysiosquilla* having a larva of that type; but, in order to prove his case, such a mischief-maker would, I take it, have to prove that *Erichthus vitreus* (Fabricius) is the larva of a particular species of *Lysiosquilla*. That at the moment he could not do, but the proof may be forthcoming some day and it is very necessary to avoid any more upheavals in nomenclature. I hope that the Commission will get the name *Lysiosquilla* permanently established.

**PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO VALIDATE THE GENERIC NAME "ODONTODACTYLUS" BIGELOW, 1893 (CLASS CRUSTACEA, ORDER STOMATOPODA)**

By L. B. HOLTHUIS

(*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*)

**(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)475)**

The present application relates to a generic name *Odontodactylus* Bigelow, 1893, which is in universal use for a well-known genus of Stomatopoda, but which is technically invalid, being a homonym of an earlier generic name which has hitherto been completely overlooked in the literature. The substitution of a totally unknown name for the well-established name *Odontodactylus* would give rise to great confusion and would serve no useful purpose of any kind. I accordingly ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to prevent the ruthless application of the Law of Priority in this way by using their plenary powers to validate the generic name *Odontodactylus* Bigelow, 1893.

The following are the references to the generic names dealt with in the present application :—

*Odontodactylus* Bigelow, 1893, *Johns Hopkins Univ. Circ.* **12**: 100 (type species, by subsequent selection by Bigelow, 1931 (*Bull. Mus. comp. Zool.* **72**: 144) : *Cancer scyllarus* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1**: 633).

*Gamaris* [H.S.], 1876, *Ceylon*, **2**: 275 (type species, by monotypy: *Cancer scyllarus* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1**: 63).

In the second volume of a work published in 1878 under the title "Ceylon, a general Description of the Island, historical, physical, statistical, Containing the most recent information, by an Officer, late of the Ceylon Rifles. London. 1876," the author, whose identity is unknown and who wrote over the initials "H.S.", gave, at the end of the twenty-ninth chapter, a list of the species of Crustacea recorded by H. Milne Edwards (1837, *Hist. nat. Crust.* **2**) as occurring in the Indian seas. In this list "H.S." inserted the entry "*Gamaris scyllarus*, Rump." There is no doubt that the species so referred to is the species *Cancer scyllarus* Linnaeus, 1758.

The above species is, however (as shown above), the type species of the well-known genus *Odontodactylus* Bigelow, 1893.) Accordingly, under the Law of Priority, the name *Odontodactylus* Bigelow is invalid, being an objective junior synonym of the name *Gamaris* [H.S.], 1876. It would, however, be ridiculous to abandon so well established a name as *Odontodactylus* in a favour of a name (*Gamaris*) that has never been in use, is quite unknown and was published by an author who was almost certainly not a carcinologist. I accordingly ask the International Commission to use their plenary powers



to prevent the quite unnecessary confusion which follow such a change. The concrete proposals which I therefore submit for consideration are that the Commission should :—

- (1) use their plenary powers (a) to suppress the generic name *Gammaris* [H.S.], 1876, for the purposes of the Law of Priority, but not for those of the Law of Homonymy, and (b) to validate the generic name *Odontodactylus* Bigelow, 1893 ;
- (2) place on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* the generic name *Odontodactylus* Bigelow, 1893 (type species, by subsequent selection by Bigelow, 1931 : *Cancer scyllarus* Linnaeus, 1758), as validated in (1) (b) above ;
- (3) place the generic name *Gammaris* [H.S.], 1876, as suppressed under (1) (a) above, on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* ;
- (4) place on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* the trivial name *scyllarus* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Cancer scyllarus*).

I should add, with reference to the decision by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, that in future the gender of every generic name added to the *Official List* is to be specified therein (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 341), that the gender of the generic name *Odontodactylus* is masculine.

**PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO SUPPRESS CERTAIN NAMES PUBLISHED FOR FOSSIL ANIMALS BY LINNAEUS IN 1768 AND BY OTHER AUTHORS IN LATER EDITIONS OF THE WORKS OF LINNAEUS**

By the late R. WINCKWORTH  
(London)

**(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)418)**

The twelfth edition of Linnaeus' *Systema Naturae* includes a third volume "Regnum Lapideum," published in 1768. Part of this (pages 153-174) treats of Petrificata and contains a number of binominal names for fossil animals. If, however, an attempt is made to use these names, confusion at once arises: for the generic names correspond to the classes, not to the genera, of the first volume, e.g., *Zoolithus* is the fossil genus equivalent to Mammalia, and *Helmintholithus* to Vermes. The trivial names may correspond to species or to groups of species or to genera. Thus, *Helmintholithus Hammonites* contains four general references and nine further references,  $\alpha - \iota$  which are stated to be "totidem distinctae species": *Helmintholithus Anomites* contains references to eleven species of *Anomia* named in volume 1: *Helmintholithus Gryphites* is the same as *Anomia Gryphus* of volume 1. It seems difficult to apply these names of fossils without introducing confusion. Application is hereby made to the Commission to suppress the names introduced in Linnaeus, 1768, *Systema Naturae*, (ed. 12) **3**: 153-174, and also in such other works as are later editions of, or amplifications based on, this volume of the *Systema*.

In particular the suppression should apply to:—

Linnaeus, 1768, *Systema Naturae*, (ed. 12) **3**

J. F. Gmelin, 1793, *Systema Naturae*, (ed. 13) **3**

M. Houttuyn, 1785, *Natuurlyke Historie*, **3**

W. Turton, 1806, *A general System of Nature*, **7**.

This application has the unanimous support of the Nomenclature Committee of the Malacological Society of London.

**PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO PREVENT THE CONFUSION WHICH WOULD RESULT, UNDER A STRICT APPLICATION OF THE "RÈGLES", FROM THE SINKING OF THE NAME "CONCHIDIUM" AS A SYNONYM OF "PENTAMERUS" SOWERBY, 1813 (CLASS BRACHIOPODA) AND THE TRANSFER OF THE LATTER NAME TO THE GENUS NOW KNOWN AS "CONCHIDIUM"**

By F. ELIZABETH S. ALEXANDER, M.A., Ph.D.  
(Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge University, Cambridge)

**(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)286)**

The object of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to prevent the serious confusion, both in systematic zoology and in stratigraphy, which would result from the strict application of the *Règles* to the generic names *Pentamerus* Sowerby (J.), 1813, and *Conchidium* Oehlert, 1887.

**I. History of the generic name "Conchidium" commonly, though erroneously, attributed to Linnaeus**

The earliest reference to the generic name *Conchidium* which has so far been traced is in Linnaeus' *Museum Tessinianum* (: 90, pl. V, fig. 8) published in 1753, where a species is described (with a locality) and figured under the accidentally binominal name *Conchidium biloculare*. The species so described and figured is perfectly recognisable and is the species named *Anomia bilocularis* by Hisinger in 1799. Neither the generic name *Conchidium* nor the trivial name *biloculare*, as published by Linnaeus in the *Mus. Tess.*, possesses any availability in zoological nomenclature, since that work, being published prior to 1758, was published before the starting point of zoological nomenclature (Article 26).

The next occasion on which the generic name *Conchidium* appears is in 1768 in volume 3 of the 12th edition of the *Systema Naturae*. In that volume a trinominal system of nomenclature is used and accordingly the name *Conchidium* acquired no standing in zoological nomenclature in virtue of being so published. (I understand that the late Mr. R. Winckworth submitted an application supported by the Nomenclature Committee of the Malacological Society of London, asking the Commission to remove all doubts regarding the availability of names published in this volume by suppressing it for nomenclatorial purposes (Commission File Z.N.(S.)418). I feel strongly that this course is desirable since, until this is done, confusion is bound to arise at least so far as the Brachiopods are concerned.)

As already mentioned, Hisinger in 1799 gave the name *Anomia bilocularis* to the species described and figured by Linnaeus in 1753 under the name *Conchidium biloculare*. In doing so, Hisinger added the note that the species



had previously been referred to other genera; his note reads: "Helminth. Patellaria. Conchidium". He did not, however, either accept or adopt the name *Conchidium* and accordingly, under *Opinion* 5, he did not bestow any availability under the *Règles* on the pre-1758 name *Conchidium*. (See *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4: 150 for the decision taken in Paris in 1948 to incorporate the substance of *Opinion* 5 in the *Règles*.)

The term "Conchidium" was next used by Wahlenberg in 1821, where in a general description of Septate Anomites reference is made to the group of the "Conchidiums". Wahlenberg used the word "Conchidium" as a specific trivial name, applying the specific name *Anomites conchidium* to the species which he was then describing. The fact that the word "conchidium" was there printed with a capital initial letter (as "Conchidium") misled Sherborn (1926, *Index Anim.* (Pars secund): 1444, line 11) into thinking that Wahlenberg had used this word as a generic name. (The description given by Wahlenberg and the references that he gave make it clear that the species which he was describing was *Anomia bilocularis* Hisinger, 1799.)

The next appearance in the literature of the name *Conchidium* was in 1848 when it was used by Bronn (1: 322). Like Hisinger (1799), Bronn (1848) did not reinforce this pre-1758 name by acceptance or adoption (as required by *Opinion* 5) and accordingly he conferred no availability upon this name.

At last in 1887 we come upon the first occasion when the name *Conchidium* was published in conditions which satisfy the requirements of Article 25; this was by Oehlert, who (1) gave characters for the genus, (2) designated what he called "*Conchidium bilocularis* Linn." as the type species of this genus. As already explained, the pre-1758 name *Conchidium biloculare* possesses no status in zoological nomenclature, but that does not invalidate Oehlert's selection, as the type species of *Conchidium*, of the species represented by the foregoing invalid name, that is, *Anomia bilocularis* Hisinger, 1799.

Under the *Règles*, therefore, *Anomia bilocularis* Hisinger, 1799, is the type species of the genus *Conchidium*, and has been so accepted by all subsequent authors, some of whom, however, have continued to attribute this generic name to Linnaeus instead of to Oehlert.

## II. History of the generic name "Pentamerus" Sowerby (J.), 1813

The generic name *Pentamerus* Sowerby (J.), 1813 (*Min. Conch.* 1: 73\*-76\*) was published without a designated type species; three nominal species were referred to this genus, of which the first was *Pentamerus knighti* (incorrectly spelt *knightii*), a new species, and the third *Pentamerus laevis*, also a new species.

In 1853, Davidson (: 97) selected *Pentamerus knighti* Sowerby (J.), 1813, to be the type species of the genus *Pentamerus* Sowerby, 1813. This is a valid selection under Rule (g) in Article 30 of the *Règles*, and accordingly this species is the type species of this genus.

In 1894 (: 236-240), Hall and Clarke revised the genera *Pentamerus* and *Conchidium* and, in doing so, selected *Pentamerus oblongus* Sowerby (J. de C.), 1839, as the type species of *Pentamerus* Sowerby (J.), 1813, either being ignorant of, or ignoring, the earlier selection by Davidson (1853) of *Pentamerus knighti* Sowerby (J.), 1813, as the type species of this genus. The nominal species *Pentamerus oblongus* Sowerby (J. de C.), 1839, was not (and by reason of the date of the publication of its name, could not have been) one of the nominal species originally included in the genus *Pentamerus* Sowerby, but it was regarded as such by those authors because, following Davidson (1867), they regarded the names *Pentamerus oblongus* Sowerby (J. de C.), 1839, and *Pentamerus laevis* Sowerby (J.), 1813, as names given to the adult and immature forms respectively of a single species, and the latter name had been cited by James Sowerby when he first published the name *Pentamerus*.

Although, as shown above, the action by Hall and Clarke was entirely contrary to the present *Règles*, it has been generally followed by subsequent authors, except that Schuckert and Le Vene (1929) and Schuckert and Cooper (1932) treated the nominal species *Pentamerus laevis* Sowerby (J.), 1813, and not *Pentamerus oblongus* Sowerby (J. de C.), 1839, as the type species of the genus *Pentamerus*.

### III. The result which would follow from the strict application of the "Règles" in the present case

We have seen in the preceding Section that under the *Règles* (1) the type species of *Conchidium* Oehlert, 1887, is *Anomia bilocularis* Hisinger, 1799 (the species currently accepted as such) and that the type species of *Pentamerus* Sowerby (J.), 1813, is *Pentamerus knighti* Sowerby (J.), 1813 (a species which has never been accepted as such by any author, other than Davidson in 1853) and not *Pentamerus laevis* Sowerby (J.), 1813, or *Pentamerus oblongus* Sowerby (J. de C.), 1839, which are commonly accepted as forms of a single species and one or other of which is universally accepted as the type species of *Pentamerus*.

According to currently accepted taxonomic ideas, the species *Anomia bilocularis* Hisinger, 1799, and *Pentamerus knighti* Sowerby (J.), 1813, are congeneric with one another and are both referable to the genus *Pentamerus* Sowerby (J.), 1813. The acceptance of the application of the *Règles* in this way would inevitably lead to the greatest confusion: (1) the well-known generic name *Conchidium* would disappear as a synonym of *Pentamerus*; (2) the species now referred to the genus *Pentamerus* would have to be placed in a genus with a different name; (3) the names of the Order, Superfamily and Family would have to be changed to conform with the change in the generic name; (4) stratigraphical literature would suffer also through the beds known as "Pentamerus beds" being characterised (as they would have to be) by some genus other than *Pentamerus*, while the genus which in future would have to be called by the name *Pentamerus* would be a genus occurring in a different horizon,

#### IV. Action by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature recommended

In view of the intolerable confusion both in systematic zoology and in stratigraphical literature to which the strict application of the *Règles* in the present case would at once give rise, I think it essential to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its plenary powers in order to give valid force to current practice.

Before formulating my proposals for this purpose, I think that consideration should be given to the question whether *Pentamerus laevis* Sowerby (J.), 1813, or *Pentamerus oblongus* Sowerby (J. de C.), 1839, should be designated as the type species of the genus *Pentamerus* Sowerby (J.), 1813. The only advantage of selecting the first of these species as the type species is that it is one of the nominal species actually placed in the genus *Pentamerus* by Sowerby when he first published that generic name. Against this must be set the consideration that, although it is probable that the name *Pentamerus laevis* applies to an immature form of the species, the adult form of which was named *Pentamerus oblongus* by Sowerby (J. de C.) in 1839, there can be no certainty about this identification as James Sowerby's holotype of *laevis* cannot be traced and in consequence the name *Pentamerus laevis* Sowerby (J.) is at present a *nomen dubium*. If at some future date the holotype of *P. laevis* were to be found and it was shown that this name was applicable to some species not congeneric with *P. oblongus*, fresh confusion would arise in the use of the generic name *Pentamerus*. In these circumstances it appears to me that it would be most unwise to ask the Commission to use its plenary powers for the purpose of designating the doubtfully identifiable *P. laevis* as the type species of *Pentamerus* and that the only way of eliminating all risk of further confusion would be for the Commission to use its plenary powers to designate *P. oblongus* as the type species of this genus.

Having regard to the decision taken by the International Commission in Paris in 1948 (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4**: 355) that *Opinions* should deal with all questions that arise in connection with any given case submitted, I think it right to draw attention to the following generic names which are involved in the synonymy of the name *Pentamerus* Sowerby: (1) *Gypidia* Dalman, 1828, is an uncalled-for substitute for the name *Pentamerus* Sowerby, of which therefore it is an objective synonym; (2) the names *Trimurus* Caldwell, 1934, and *Miopentamerus* Alexander, 1936, which were both accidentally published in an attempt strictly to apply the *Règles* in the present case, are both *nomina nuda*; (3) *Miopentamerus* Woods, 1937, which was published with *Pentamerus oblongus* Sowerby, 1839, as the sole cited species, which is thus its type species by monotypy, will become an objective synonym of *Pentamerus* Sowerby (J.), 1813, if, as I recommend below, the Commission under its plenary powers designates *P. oblongus* as the type species of *Pentamerus*,



In the light of the considerations set forth in the present application and, in particular, the need for avoiding the serious confusion which would result from the strict application of the *Règles* in the present case, I ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature :—

(1) to rule :—

- (a) that neither Hisinger (1799) nor Bronn (1848) reinforced the pre-1758 generic name *Conchidium* by adoption or acceptance (*Opinion* 5) and therefore that that name acquired no rights in zoological nomenclature in virtue of having been published by either of those authors ;
- (b) that the term *Conchidium*, as published by Wahlenberg in 1821, was not used as a generic name and therefore that the alleged generic name *Conchidium* Wahlenberg, 1821, is a cheironym ;
- (c) that the generic name *Conchidium* ranks in zoological nomenclature from Oehlert (1887), the first author by whom it was published in conditions which satisfy the requirements of Article 25 of the *Règles* ;

(2) to use its plenary powers :—

- (a) to set aside all selections of type species for the genus *Pentamerus* Sowerby (J.), 1813, made prior to the proposed decision ;
- (b) to designate *Pentamerus oblongus* Sowerby (J. de C.), 1839, to be the type species of *Pentamerus* Sowerby, 1813 ;
- (c) to suppress for the purposes of the Law of Priority the trivial name *laevis* Sowerby (J.), 1813 (as published in the binominal combination *Pentamerus laevis*) ;

(3) to place the under-mentioned generic names on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—

- (a) *Conchidium* Oehlert, 1887 (type species, by original designation : *Anomia bilocularis* Hisinger, 1799) (gender of generic name : neuter) ;
- (b) *Pentamerus* Sowerby (J.), 1813 (type species, by designation under the plenary powers as proposed in (2) (b) above : *Pentamerus oblongus* Sowerby (J. de C.), 1839) (gender of generic name : masculine).

(4) to place the under-mentioned generic names and alleged generic names on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* :—

- (a) the under-mentioned generic names proposed, under (1) (a) above, to be declared to possess no status in zoological nomenclature :—
  - (i) *Conchidium* Hisinger, 1799 ;
  - (ii) *Conchidium* Bronn, 1848 ;

- (b) *Conchidium* Wahlenberg, 1821, proposed under (1) (b) to be declared a cheironym ;
  - (c) *Gypidia* Dalman, 1828 (an objective synonym of *Pentamerus* Sowerby, 1813) ;
  - (d) the under-mentioned *nomina nuda* :—
    - (i) *Trimurus* Caldwell, 1934 ;
    - (ii) *Miopentamerus* Alexander (née Caldwell), 1936 ;
  - (e) *Miopentamerus* Woods, 1937 (type species, by monotypy : *Pentamerus oblongus* Sowerby, 1839) (an objective synonym of *Pentamerus* Sowerby (J.), 1813, when, as recommended in (2) (b) above, the foregoing species is designated under the plenary powers as the type species of *Pentamerus* Sowerby) ;
- (5) to place the under-mentioned trivial names on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* :—
- (a) *bilocularis* Hisinger, 1799 (as published in the binominal combination *Anomia bilocularis*) ;
  - (b) *knighti* Sowerby (J.), 1813 (as published in the binominal combination *Pentamerus knighti*, the trivial name then being incorrectly given as *knightii*) ;
  - (c) *oblongus* Sowerby (J. de C.), 1839 (as published in the binominal combination *Pentamerus oblongus*) ;
- (6) to place the trivial name *laevis* Sowerby (J.), 1839 (as published in the binominal combination *Pentamerus laevis*), as proposed under (2) (c) above, to be suppressed under the plenary powers, on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*.

**ON THE PROPOSAL THAT THE PLENARY POWERS  
SHOULD BE USED TO CONSERVE THE NAMES "CON-  
CHIDIUM" AND "PENTAMERUS" FOR THE FOSSIL  
BRACHIOPOD GENERA TO WHICH THOSE NAMES ARE  
CUSTOMARILY APPLIED**

By J. K. St. JOSEPH, M.A., Ph.D.  
(*Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge University, Cambridge*)

**(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)286)**

(Extract from a letter dated 7th November, 1950)

I understand that Mrs. Elizabeth Alexander has submitted to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature an application concerning the names of the fossil brachiopod genera *Conchidium* auctt. and *Pentamerus* auctt.

Since I have also worked on these genera and have had an opportunity of reading through Mrs. Alexander's statement in the form in which it has been submitted to the Commission, I write to say that I am entirely in agreement with the principles of the case as she has outlined them, and that I hope that action may be taken to render valid the usage of these generic names in the way they are customarily used at present.



**ON DR. F. ELIZABETH ALEXANDER'S PROPOSAL FOR THE  
USE BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOG-  
ICAL NOMENCLATURE OF ITS PLENARY POWERS TO  
VALIDATE CURRENT USAGE OF THE GENERIC NAME  
"PENTAMERUS" SOWERBY, 1813 (CLASS BRACHIOPODA)**

By THOMAS W. AMSDEN

(Department of Geology, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland,  
U.S.A.)

**Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)286)**

(Extract from a letter dated 31st October, 1950)

I received your letter of 24th October with the enclosed copy of the application by Dr. Elizabeth Alexander pertaining to the names *Conchidium* and *Pentamerus*. The problem concerned with these generic names is a complicated one and it seems to me that Dr. Alexander has proposed the best possible solution.

**ON DR. F. ELIZABETH ALEXANDER'S PROPOSAL FOR THE  
USE BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOG-  
ICAL NOMENCLATURE OF ITS PLENARY POWERS TO  
VALIDATE CURRENT USAGE OF THE GENERIC NAME  
"PENTAMERUS" SOWERBY, 1813 (CLASS BRACHIOPODA)**

By G. ARTHUR COOPER

(Curator, Invertebrate Paleontology and Paleobotany, Smithsonian Institution,  
U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.)

**(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)286)**

(Extract from a letter dated 30th November 1950)

Dr. Helen Muir-Wood, who is visiting here at the U.S. National Museum, turned over to me your letter concerning *Conchidium* and *Pentamerus*. As far as I am personally concerned, I would be agreeable to the Commission using its plenary powers to designate *Pentamerus oblongus* Sowerby, 1839, as type species of *Pentamerus* and to suppress the name *Pentamerus laevis*, which has priority over *P. oblongus*.

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